

REMARKS

Applicant has submitted this amendment concurrently with the Request for Continued Examination so that the Examiner may consider alternate claims which are patentably distinct over the art of record. More specifically, Applicant submits that the art of record fails to either teach or suggest the fingerprint detection device of the present invention wherein the discharge electrodes extend above a primary surface of an insulating layer formed over the capacitor electrodes. Additionally, alternate claim 22 further defines the invention as having insulation formed over the discharge electrodes which as specified extend above the surface of the insulation formed over the capacitor electrodes.

Formation of the device in this manner advantageously improves the operational characteristics by enhancing the ability to remove undesired static electricity more efficiently than the prior art. Applicant submits that the art of record does not teach or suggest this advance in the art.

Appl. No. 09/711,595
Amdt. Dated August 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2003

In regard to the specification modifications previously requested by the Examiner, the undersigned requests that the Examiner discuss this matter in a telephone interview in order to eliminate any misunderstanding as to the nature of the modifications sought by the Examiner. In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all claims stand in condition for allowance.

Date: 11/22/04

Respectfully submitted,


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